Youth in the Labour Force

2013

Alberta

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, youth are defined as persons aged 15 to 24 years.

Alberta Youth Population Statistics

- Among the provinces, Alberta had the fourth highest proportion of youth in its working age population at 16.2%, after Manitoba at 16.9%, Saskatchewan at 16.5%, and Prince Edward Island at 16.4%.
- The Alberta youth population grew by 9.9% between 2003 and 2013.

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

- Alberta had the second lowest youth unemployment rate in the country at 8.6%, after Saskatchewan's 7.8%.
- Alberta had the fourth highest youth participation rate in Canada at 67.7%, after Prince Edward Island's 69.7%, Saskatchewan's rate of 69.0%, and Manitoba's rate of 68.9%.
- In 2013, the Alberta youth employment rate at 61.9% was the second highest among the provinces, after Saskatchewan's 63.6%.

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector in Alberta comprised 78.6% of all employed youth.
- In 2013, Alberta youth accounted for 36.3% of those employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry.

Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

- 74.8% of employed youth had obtained a high school diploma, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, a university degree.
- Of employed youth in Alberta, 77.1% of women and 72.7% of men had high school diploma or higher.

Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

- In 2013, Youth made up 14.4% of all employment in Alberta.
- 65.2% of youth were employed in full-time positions.
- Under half, or 41.2% of all employed female youth worked part-time.
- Only 6.3% of youth employed in Alberta worked part-time instead of full-time due to business conditions, or looked for and were unable to find full-time employment.

Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

- The average hourly wage paid to youth was $10.65 less than the provincial average hourly wage of $27.72.
- The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education attained than the wage paid to female youth.

Alberta Youth Population Statistics

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the age of 15 and 24 years.[1]

In Canada, 15.5% of the working age population in 2013 was youth. The proportion of youths in the working age population ranged from 13.6% to 16.9% of the total working age population in the ten provinces (Figure 1). Alberta had the fourth highest proportion of youth in the working age population, at 16.2%, behind Manitoba's 16.9%, Saskatchewan's 16.5%, and Prince Edward Island's 16.4%. Alberta's percentage of youth in the working age population exceeded the national percentage by 0.7 percentage points.

Figure 1

Youth in Canada and Provinces, 2013

	Working Age Population (15+ years)	Youth (15-24 years)	Youth Proportion of WAP
Canada	28,673,200	4,448,900	15.5%
Newfoundland and Labrador	429,500	58,600	13.6%
Prince Edward Island	120,800	19,800	16.4%
Nova Scotia	781,400	116,200	14.9%
New Brunswick	620,000	88,500	14.3%
Quebec	6,691,400	978,700	14.6%
Ontario	11,203,800	1,785,600	15.9%
Manitoba	973,500	164,800	16.9%
Saskatchewan	826,100	136,700	16.5%
Alberta	**3,172,400**	**512,900**	**16.2%**
British Columbia	3,854,500	587,000	15.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The youth population in Alberta grew by 9.9%, or 46,300, between 2003 and 2013 (Figure 2). This growth rate was 4.0 percentage points higher than the youth national average, but was 17.9 percentage points lower than the growth rate of working age population in Alberta over the same period.

Figure 2

Growth of Youth and Working Age Population, 2003 and 2013

	2003	2013	Growth	Growth Rate
Canadians	25,098,500	28,673,200	3,574,700	14.2%
Youth in Canada	4,199,200	4,448,900	249,700	5.9%
Albertans	2,482,600	3,172,400	689,800	27.8%
Youth in Alberta	466,600	512,900	46,300	9.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

[1] *Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE. Or visit: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=71-543-GIE&lang=eng*

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

Youth in Alberta made up 15.0% of the labour force and 14.4% of those employed in 2013 (Figure 3).

In 2013, youth accounted for less than a third, or 27.7%, of the unemployed in Alberta. Alberta's youth unemployment rate was 8.6%, down from 8.9% in 2012, and was 4.0 percentage points higher than the 2013 provincial rate.

Alberta's youth participation and employment rates were lower than the provincial average by 5.4 and 7.8 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 3

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics, 2013

	Alberta Youth (15-24 years)	Alberta (15+ years)	Youth's Share
Working Age Population	512,900	3,172,400	16.2%
Labour Force	347,200	2,318,200	15.0%
Employment	317,600	2,211,000	14.4%
Unemployment	29,700	107,200	27.7%
Unemployment Rate	8.6%	4.6%	
Participation Rate	67.7%	73.1%	
Employment Rate	61.9%	69.7%	

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The proportion of youth in Alberta who were not participating in the labour force and were not in school at 7.7%, was lower than the average for Albertans aged 15-64, at 13.0% (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Participation in the Labour Force by Student Classification

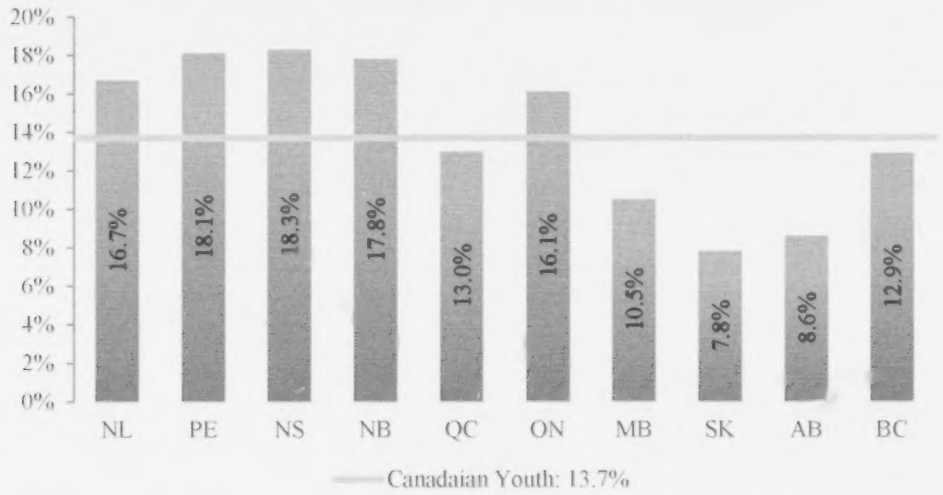
Age Group	In Labour Force and in School	Not Labour Force and in School	Not Labour Force and Not in School	In Labour Force and Not in School
15-24	19.6%	24.6%	7.7%	48.1%
15-64	5.6%	5.6%	13.0%	75.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Note: Data on student status is not collected on persons aged 65 and over

Alberta's youth unemployment rate of 8.6% was the second lowest among the ten provinces, after Saskatchewan's 7.8% and was 5.1 percentage points lower than the Canadian youth average of 13.7% (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Youth Unemployment Rates in Canada by Provinces, 2013

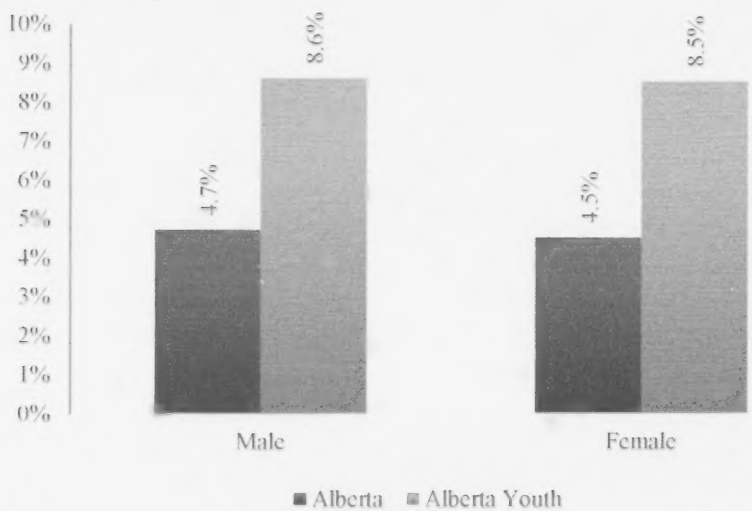


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Female youth had a lower unemployment rate than their male counterparts by 0.1 percentage points in 2013 (Figure 6). The unemployment rate for Alberta males 15 years and over was 0.2 percentage points higher than for females from the same age group.

Figure 6

Alberta Youth Unemployment Rate by Gender, 2013

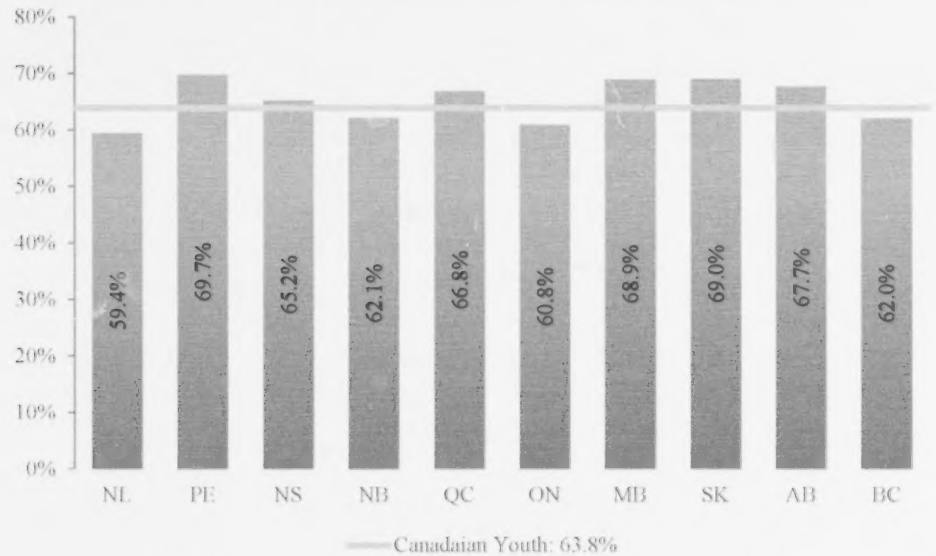


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2013, Alberta's youth participation rate at 67.7% was the fourth highest among the provinces, and was 3.9 percentage points higher than the Canadian youth average of 63.8% (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Youth Participation Rates in Canada by Provinces, 2013

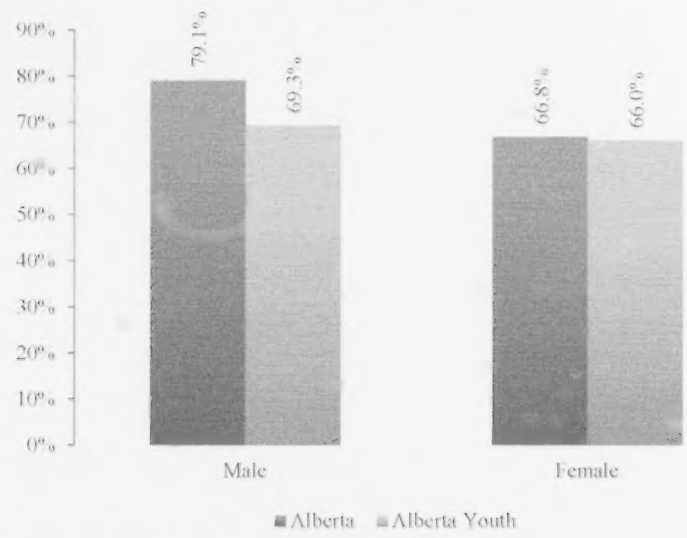


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The participation rate for female youth in Alberta was 66.0%, which was 0.8 percentage point lower than the provincial average for women and 3.3 percentage points lower than the participation rate for male youth (Figure 8).

Figure 8

Alberta Youth Participation Rate by Gender, 2013

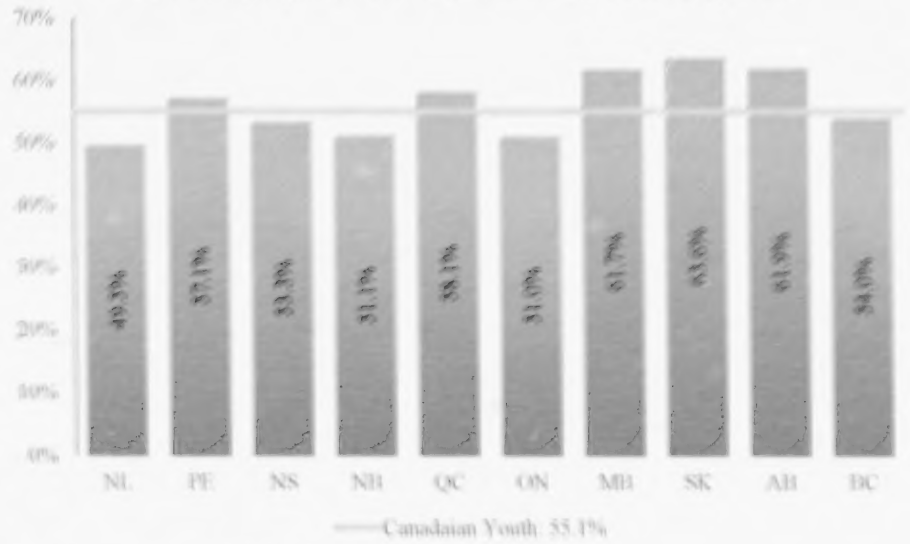


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta's youth employment rate at 61.9% was the second highest among the provinces, behind Saskatchewan's rate of 63.6% (Figure 9). Alberta's rate was 6.8 percentage points above the average Canadian youth rate in 2013.

Figure 9

Youth Employment Rates in Canada by Provinces, 2013

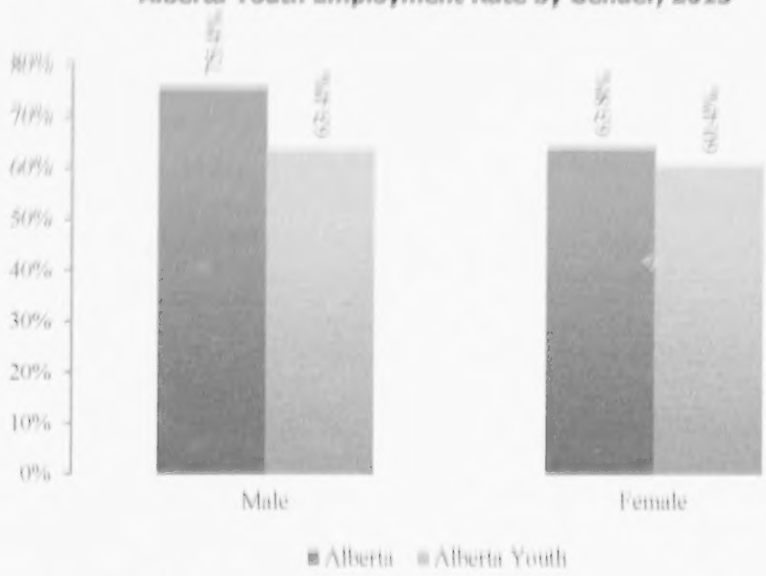


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2013, the employment rate for male youth in Alberta was 3.0 percentage points higher than the rate for female youth and 12.0 percentage points lower than the rate for males 15 years and over (Figure 10).

Figure 10

Alberta Youth Employment Rate by Gender, 2013



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

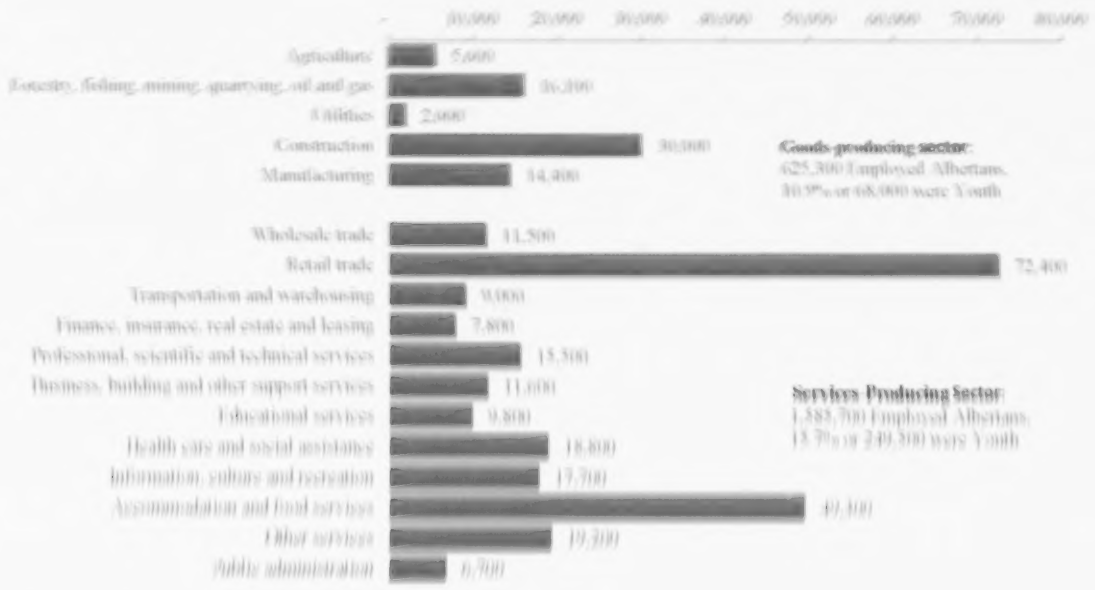
Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

In 2013, there were 625,300 Albertans employed in the Goods-Producing Sector and 10.9% were youth (Figure 11). In the Services-Producing Sector, 1,585,700 Albertans were employed, of which 15.7% were youth.

Of employed youth in Alberta, 78.6% worked in the Services-Producing Sector. The three industries that employed the largest number of youth were Retail Trade, 72,400, Accommodation and Food Services, 49,300, and Construction, 30,000.

Figure 11

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry, 2013



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2013, 81.0% of Albertans aged 15 to 24 employed in the Goods-Producing Sector were male (Figure 12). Of employed male youth in Alberta, 66.9% were employed in the Services-Producing Sector, and 21.5% were in the Retail Trade industry.

Female youth comprised 55.3% of all youth employed in the Services-Producing Sector in 2013. Of female youth employed in that sector, 61.7% of them worked in three industries: Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services and Health Care and Social Assistance.

Figure 12

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry and Gender, 2013

	Number Employed		*Proportion by Gender*	
Industry	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Goods-producing sector	*55,100*	*12,900*	*81.0%*	*19.0%*
Agriculture	*3,900*	*1,700*	*69.6%*	*30.4%*
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12,700	3,400	78.9%	21.1%
Utilities	1,500	*	75.0%	*
Construction	26,100	3,900	87.0%	13.0%
Manufacturing	10,900	3,400	75.7%	23.6%
Services-producing sector	**111,500**	**138,000**	**44.7%**	**55.3%**
Wholesale trade	8,200	3,400	71.3%	29.6%
Retail trade	35,800	36,600	49.4%	50.6%
Transportation and warehousing	6,500	3,600	72.2%	28.9%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	3,700	5,100	34.6%	65.4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	7,800	7,800	50.3%	50.3%
Business, building and other support services	5,900	5,700	50.9%	49.1%
Educational services	3,400	6,400	34.7%	65.3%
Health care and social assistance	1,900	16,900	10.1%	89.9%
Information, culture and recreation	9,700	8,000	54.8%	45.2%
Accommodation and food services	17,600	31,700	35.7%	64.3%
Other services	8,300	10,900	43.2%	56.8%
Public administration	3,900	2,900	58.2%	43.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding
** Insufficient data*

Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

In 2013, 25.2% of employed youth in Alberta had no degree, certificate or diploma compared to 11.5% for employed Albertans aged 15 years and over, and 36.2% of youths had high school diploma as their highest level of education compared to 23.9% of Albertans aged 15 years and over (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Employed Alberta Youth by Highest Level of Education Attained, 2013

Education Level	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (15 to 24 years)
No degree, certificate or diploma	11.5%	25.2%
High school graduate	23.9%	36.2%
High school graduate, some post-secondary	6.0%	14.5%
Postsecondary certificate or diploma Without high school diploma	2.8%	0.6%
Postsecondary certificate or diploma With high school diploma	31.5%	16.4%
University degree	24.2%	7.1%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Of employed youths with a university degree, 60.4% were females and 39.6% were males (Figure 14). For employed youths with high school diploma as their highest level of education, 54.6% were males and 45.4% were females.

Figure 14

Employed Alberta Youth by Highest Level of Education Attained and Gender, 2013

Education Level	Youth (15-24 years)	Male Share	Female Share
No degree, certificate or diploma	79,900	56.8%	43.2%
High school graduate	115,100	54.6%	45.4%
High school graduate, some post-secondary	46,000	50.0%	50.0%
Postsecondary certificate or diploma Without high school diploma	1,800	*	*
Postsecondary certificate or diploma With high school diploma	52,000	49.4%	50.6%
University degree	22,700	39.6%	60.4%

Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding
** Insufficient data*
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

The proportion of youth employed in part-time positions was 34.8%, more than double the proportion for Albertans 15 years and older, at 15.9% (Figure 15). The proportion of female youth in part-time employment was 41.2%, which was 12.2 percentage points higher than the proportion for male youth.

Figure 15

Full-time and Part-time Employment by Gender, 2013

	Albertans (15 to 24 years)		Albertans (15+ years)	
	Employed	Share	Employed	Share
Both Genders	**317,600**	**100.0%**	**2,211,000**	**100.0%**
Full-Time	207,100	65.2%	1,859,900	84.1%
Part-Time	110,500	34.8%	351,000	15.9%
Male	**166,700**	**100.0%**	**1,216,800**	**100.0%**
Full-Time	118,300	71.0%	1,107,800	91.0%
Part-Time	48,400	29.0%	109,000	9.0%
Female	**150,900**	**100.0%**	**994,100**	**100.0%**
Full-Time	88,700	58.8%	752,100	75.7%
Part-Time	62,200	41.2%	242,000	24.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The proportion of youth in Alberta who looked for full-time work but worked part-time due to business conditions, or could not find full-time employment, was 6.3%, which was lower than the provincial average of 6.4% (Figure 16).

Figure 16

Reasons for Part-Time Employment, 2013

Reason for working Part-Time	Albertans (15 to 24 years)	Albertans (15+ years)
Going to school	75.8%	27.2%
Personal preference	5.9%	30.8%
Business conditions, did not look for full-time work in last month	6.1%	9.5%
Could not find full-time work, did not look for full-time work in last month	1.6%	1.7%
Business conditions, looked for full-time work in last month	4.2%	4.2%
Could not find full-time work, looked for full-time work in last month	2.1%	2.2%
Other reasons	4.3%	24.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Youth Wages

Overall, youth in Alberta earned less per hour than the provincial average at each level of education (Figure 17). The average hourly wage paid to youth was $10.65 less than the provincial average hourly wage in 2013.

Figure 17

Average Hourly Wages by Highest Level of Education Attained, 2013

Educational Level	Alberta	Alberta Youths
Less than high school	$19.49	$13.09
High school graduate	$23.18	$17.01
Some post-secondary	$22.66	$16.91
Post-secondary certificate or diploma without high school completion	$28.35	$18.65
Post-secondary certificate or diploma with high school completion	$29.62	$20.82
University degree	$34.69	$22.40
All Education Levels	**$27.72**	**$17.07**

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth in 2013 (Figure 18).

Figure 18

Average Hourly Wages of Alberta Youth by Highest Level of Education Attained and Gender, 2013

Educational Level	Youth	Male	Female
Less than high school	$13.09	$13.98	$11.94
High school graduate	$17.01	$18.34	$15.40
Some post-secondary	$16.91	$18.58	$15.24
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	$20.75	$23.03	$18.62
University degree	$22.40	$23.50	$21.69
All Education Levels	**$17.07**	**$18.25**	**$15.78**

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Appendix

All definitions come from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey 2012.pdf, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-G.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Youth: Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

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